

House Resolution No.

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who contribute to public safety through their diverse endeavors in the important field of law enforcement; and

Whereas, Tim Nielson has attained considerable distinction as a police officer with the Joplin Police Department located in southwest Missouri's Newton County; and

Whereas, on Tuesday, August 10, 2004, Tim Nielson and his law enforcement partner responded to a request to check on the health and safety of a man who was despondent and possibly suicidal because of a recent divorce; and

Whereas, when Tim Nielson arrived at the residence, the man ran from his backyard into the house; and

Whereas, when Officer Nielson and his police colleague entered the home, the house exploded and burned because of a natural gas leak; and

Whereas, Officer Nielson was temporarily trapped by debris on the back porch when he attempted to exit from the rear of the house while his partner successfully radioed for assistance, a call to which officers from law-enforcement departments across Jasper and Newton counties, twenty-four Joplin firefighters, and ambulances from METS and Newton County Ambulance Service responded; and

Whereas, members of two sheriff's departments, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the police departments in Webb City, Duquesne, and Carl Junction handled routine calls in other parts of the city and controlled the crowds at the scene while Joplin officers focused on investigating the explosion; and

Whereas, Officer Nielson and his partner were taken to Saint John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin and then transported by helicopter to a Springfield burn unit with burns covering approximately thirty-five to forty-five percent of their bodies; and

Whereas, Joplin Police Commander Jim Hounsshell credits Tim Nielson's clothing and bulletproof vest with lessening the severity of injuries he suffered in the house fire which killed its occupant:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the long, productive, ongoing career of Tim Nielson with the Joplin Police Department and to convey to him this legislative body's best wishes for a complete recovery from injuries received while on duty; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to officer Tim Nielson of the Joplin Police Department.

Offered by _____
Representative Bryan P. Stevenson
District No. 128

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of

Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. _____, adopted _____, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker